



THE GOOD NEWS

From Crossroads Connection Omaha

Volume 2 Issue 3
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Mission

Crossroads Connection is a community of faith in support of prisoners, those released, and their families, because God's grace is extended to all.

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Parable of the Mustard Seed

Like a mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds in the ground, when sown it grows up to become the greatest of all garden plants. **Mark 4 31:32**

President's Message

God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.

Those who have attended the services Crossroads Connection and our church partners held Sundays at six o'clock know we start each service with that phrase. It is one of our traditions. Crossroads is all about individual transitions. These are founded on trust in God's grace, available all the time. With the variety of leadership week to week, our services are quite different. Our traditions help worshipers grow in faith that all the time a caring God is present.

Our board has undergone an individual transition of particular note. Rev. Roy Fox, whose call to prison ministry got the presbytery involved, and who thus founded, named, and maintained Crossroads Connection, has become an Emeritus Member. Roy was looking toward this personal transition for a few years. To assure that Crossroads maintains its ministry after him, he sought to reduce his role. Health concerns moved things in that direction, as did his involvement helping the Westminster congregation at a critical time. Rest assured, he'll be at Crossroads worship services, and supporting Mary Ann Fox's continued involvement. The board hopes you will join us in congratulating Roy and thanking him for his vision and work.

Inconsistency in requests for and utilization of Crossroads' apartments for those released to our transitional housing LIFE program has been unusually and unexpectedly high this summer. Though we expanded in expectation of taking a few low-risk prisoners completing sentences in the Re-entry Furlough Program, we never had more than one. We are thankful for partners and other donors whose support has helped us weather this storm. We try to be good stewards of your gifts. We would welcome your support of our efforts identifying a mentor and employment for each LIFE participant.

Check it out, our newly revamped website is up and open for business.

www.crossroadsconnectionne.org

Be ye fishers of men. You catch 'em - He'll clean 'em.

Financial Peace University - In the summer of 2012, Crossroads Connection began offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University course to inmates at the Omaha Correctional Center. The objective of the course is to teach the inmates skills for sound financial management - a concept that is new to many inmates. Some of the lessons include relating with money, budgeting and cash flow management, dealing with debt and credit, insurance, and retirement.

Since the summer of 2012, Crossroads has conducted four different classes at the Omaha Correctional Center. Forty-four (44) inmates have graduated from the program. The students enjoyed the classes and especially enjoyed learning about the seven "baby steps" for financial success. A student from the most recent graduating class exclaimed "loved it, learned a great deal and have already put the plan to work. I wish I would have had this class in my early 20's. Thank you."

The course is co-sponsored by Followers of Christ (FIC) ministries located in Lincoln, Nebraska. We currently have volunteers from a variety of churches and organizations, including First Presbyterian (Omaha), Presbyterian Church of the Master, Rejoice Lutheran Church, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Faith-Westwood Methodist Church, Followers of Christ (Lincoln) Journey Church (Gretna) and the University of Nebraska Omaha.

The class has become so popular that there is currently a waiting list for the next two classes offered and requests have been to offer the course at two additional correctional facilities. A new class is currently underway the Community Corrections Center in Lincoln.

Crossroads needs more volunteers for more classes at the Omaha Community Corrections Center-Omaha and the Omaha Correctional Center. An orientation class will be held in December. Volunteers must pass a background check and must attend two orientation classes. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and need more information, please contact board member Mike Halvorson at halvormike@yahoo.com or our website www.crossroadsconnectionne.org. Financial donations are always needed and appreciated. Books for the course are \$15.00 and the course program is \$235.00.

Thanks to all who are already a part of the Crossroads Financial Peace ministry. This program is crucial toward helping inmates transition back into society and gives them skills to go forward and not reoffend.

A message from Tim - My name is Tim Locatis, I have been serving as LIFE Manager since November 2008. Throughout this time I have had the unique opportunity to participate in the lives of countless individuals that have been released from corrections. The path each man travels after release is vastly different, with some being more difficult than others. My goal ultimately for these men is simple, that they may live healthy and productive lives as free men. We do our best to assist these men build a foundation, providing assistance with employment search, transportation, meeting necessary appointments and as liaison with Adult Parole.

Crossroads Wish List - it takes a great many partners and volunteers to make Crossroads viable, with it all starting at the Sunday service worship. Preachers/speakers at 6:00 P.M. and the fellowship dinner at 7:00 P.M. None of this can happen unless we have transportation sponsors to get our folks from and to the Community Corrections Center (often referred to as the work release center) in a timely fashion. In order to be a transportation sponsor, an individual needs to have a little training on the rules (about an hour session) and pass a background check. Because our numbers change week-to-week, we are never sure exactly how many transportation sponsors we need but it generally runs 8 to 10. Our **need and wish** is that we have a large enough pool to draw from so that we have 8 to 10 sponsors a week available and

by having a large enough pool an individual would only have to transport once a month or as often as they wish. Mary Ann Fox and Anne Carroll, board members coordinate the transportation sponsors and would be willing to answer any questions. We realize that at first thought it can be a somewhat scary and daunting undertaking. Any of the present transportation sponsors would be willing to have you ride along some evening to the church and attend the service.

It is not difficult to get preachers/retired preachers/individual speakers to provide the message; it is a large undertaking to provide the very important fellowship meal. With that in mind, our **next need and wish** is that we would have a number of individuals and small groups that would be willing and able to prepare and serve a fellowship meal. Again, we are never able to have an accurate count for dinner because families from the outside are invited to worship. The numbers generally range from 70 to 85.

Crossroads is also in **immediate need** of a child care provider that could assist with watching the children of our families during the worship service for a modest stipend and a meal. Please contact Diane Greenfield, Program Coordinator at (402) 516-2403.

Thank you from the program coordinator – thanks to each and every one for all your cooperation and willingness to help in coordinating our Sunday service worship. It is fun and a pleasure working with all of you.
Diane

These boots are made for working - in October, 2012 Trinity Lutheran donated 10 pairs of work boots from Haney Shoes to Crossroads. Crossroads has been blessed again with a financial donation of a \$1,000.00 from a loving friend from the New Horizon Presbyterian Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa to purchase work boots that will enable the men in our program to begin working quickly. It would take a considerable amount of time to save enough to purchase boots on their own.

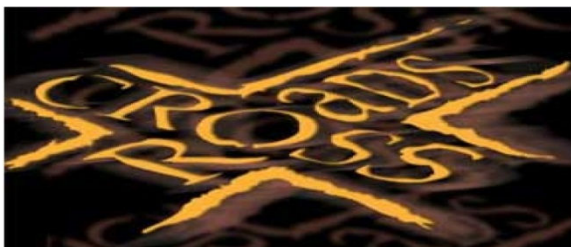
**We don't change the message,
The message changes us.**

**GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME
ALL THE TIME GOD IS GOOD**

Give Hope

Your financial contributions make it possible for Crossroads Connection Omaha to continue its Faith-driven ministry in support of prisoners, those released, and their families, because God's grace is extended to all. Crossroads is a Nebraska nonprofit 501(c)(3) and gifts are tax-deductible.

Visit our website to make a secure online donation or mail it to our address in the enclosed envelope.



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